

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

Red Yarn

14th April 1891.

Unit History - 136th Civil Maintenance
Bn

21 Sep - 15 Dec 44

Restricted FPH

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HEADQUARTERS

136TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE BATTALION

A.P.O. 4446

U. S. Army

15 December 1944

SUBJECT: Unit History From 21 September 1944 to 15 December 1944.

TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division, APO 4446, U. S. Army

1. On 21 September 1944 the advance detachment of the 136th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion consisting of thirteen officers and 41 enlisted men left station at Camp Campbell, Kentucky by rail for Fort Slocum, NYPE, New York, arriving at destination on 23 September 1944.
2. On 6 October 1944, the balance of the battalion, comprising a portion of the main party of the 14th Armored Division left station at Camp Campbell, Kentucky for Camp Shanks, NYPE, New York, arriving at destination on 8 October 1944.
3. On 6 October the advance detachment, less LT COL GEORGE W. NEGICA who had proceeded by air to destination on 27 September, sailed from NYPE for Marseille, France, arriving at the latter port on 20 September debarking at night and proceeding to bivouac area at LaMalle, France.
4. The main party of the battalion embarked at the NYPE on 14 October 1944, debarking at Marseille, France on 29 October 1944 where they went into bivouac with the advance detachment.
5. Company "C" was attached to Combat Command "A" of the Division and left with the command on 11 November 1944 for Charmes, France by motor convoy arriving there on 13 November after overnight stops at Valence, and Dijon France.
6. The balance of the battalion left for the same destination later in the month: Battalion Headquarters and Company "A" on 20 November; Headquarters Company on 21 November and Company "B" on 22 November, arriving at Charmes on the second day following. Company "A" left for Rambervillers on the following day, arriving there the same day.
7. Company "B" departed from Charmes 1 December 1944 in support of Combat Command "B" of the division arriving at Dettwiller while the balance of the battalion following on the next day, Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company going, however, to Hochfelden, and Company "A" going to Steinbourg.
8. In the meantime, Company "C" had moved to Melsheim where they captured two new Schwimmkraftwagen, which were later turned in to the 55th Ordnance Group for disposal.
9. Company "B" moved from Dettwiller to Bouxwiller, and Company "C" relieved from attachment to Combat Command "A", rejoined the battalion, and moved into the area just vacated by Company "B".

614-Ord-12-Subj
21 Sep 44
5 Dec 44

136th Ord Maintenance Bn - 14th Armored Div

21 Sep 44
5 Dec 44

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10. On the 13th, Company "B" and Battalion Headquarters moved to Hagenau while on the following day, 14 December, a further shift found Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company at Hagenau, Company "A" at Biblisheim, Company "B" at Soultz, and Company "C" at Oberbetschdorf.

For the Battalion Commander:

JACK F. PETERSON
1st Lt., Ord.
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS
136TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE BATTALION
A.P.O. 446
U. S. Army

Unit History from 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1946

On the first of the month, Hq and Hq Company moved from Detwiller to Saverne at approximately 1300 setting up shop and offices in a suburb of the town called Zornhoff at Q7316. CAPTAIN KINSEY, Shop Officer was promoted to Major, General Order #1, Hq Seventh Army, this date.

The third of January "A" Company, following a prearranged plan, started moving from Mertzwiller to Phalsbourg where location was found near the square.

The next day, "C" Company moved from Bouxwiller to Henning, location in this town being found at the cement factory.

"B" Company was returned to battalion control on the fifth when the attachment to C C B was dissolved. The company moved to Saverne on this same day where shop space was found in a brewery. "C" Company also moved back over the Saverne gap to Saverne where shop space was found in a series of buildings by the railroad. Movement into the area by both companies was completed by 1800.

On 10 January, Major Henry started experiments with German bazookas at "B" Company to determine how to protect our tanks with sandbags from both bazooka and artillery fire. Actual German rockets were fired at armor with various extra protection. Daily briefings were started by S-3 this date with attendance being required of each of the companies and sections of the Headquarters Detachment.

The next day, "A" Company started moving back to Mertzwiller from Phalzbourg by infiltration.

On the 12th, LT WIERTS, "A" Company Liaison Officer with C C A was wounded in right jaw, shoulder and right hand by shrapnel from mortar burst. He was evacuated to 132nd Evacuation Hospital and subsequently dropped from the rolls.

The next day "C" Company moved the Evacuation Section to Newbourg and "B" Company established a collecting point at Surbourg. The "C" Company Evacuation Section was bolstered by the moving of the balance of the automotive platoon to Newbourg the following day.

Four rounds of heavy artillery estimated to be 280mm, fell on the "A" Company area early in the morning this date. Two rounds fell at approximately 0200 and 2 rounds at approximately 0800. No casualties.

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"A" Company started moving back to the old area at Phalsbourg on the 20th and CAPTAIN BREWER, S-2, left for I & E school at Paris.

The move of "A" Company to Phalsbourg was temporary and on the 21st movement was started to Steinbourg to the area vacated by the 85th Ordnance Company as it was considered desirable to have all of the maintenance companies on the eastern edge of the Saverne Gap.

On the 23rd, the Battalion had an award ceremony at the "C" Company area, at which time the commanding general of the 14th Armored Division presented Bronze Star Medal awards to the following named officers and enlisted men.

1ST LT PLUTH
1ST LT THOMPSON

T/Sgt Haines
Tec 3 Murty, A.
Tec 3 Murty, B.

Tec 3 Blair
Tec 4 Buderus
Tec 4 Dulude

Tec 4 Charles Branting and Tec 5 Garland, both of Company "C", received the Bronze Star Medal Award by General Order #5, Headquarters 14th Armored Division.

The 26th of January "A" Company moved from the Steinbourg area to the same area as Hq and Hq Company, shop space being vacated by the 700th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company.

Ordnance Support was changed as indicated:

6 January 1945

"A" Company
Hq & Hq Co C C A
48th Tank Bn.
68th A I B
C-94th
Det - 154th Signal
Hq Co Div Tns
Hq Rear Ech.
84th A Med Bn
Det Bank
154 -
C-125th Engr.

"B" Company
47th Tank Bn
Hq C C R
19th A I B
117th Cav Rcn.

"C" Company
Hq & Hq Co C C B
25th Tank Bn
62nd A I B
A-94th Rcn
Det 154th Signal
Hq & Hq Co Div - F.E.
Hq & Hq Btry Div Arty
499th A F A
500th A F A
501st A F A
94 -
125 (-)
M.P.
Band

23 January 1945

"A" Company
Hq & Hq Co C C A
48th Tank Bn
62nd A I B
C-125th
C-94th
Det 154th
500th A F A

"B" Company
Hq C C R
47th Tank Bn
19th A I B
94th -
125th -
D Q M
Hq & Hq Co Div Tns

"C" Company
Hq & Hq Co C C B
25th Tank Bn
68th A I B
B-125th
D-94th
Det 154th
Hq. F. E.
Hq & Hq Btry Div Arty
499th A F A

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HEADQUARTERS
136TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE BATTALION
A.P.O. 446
U. S. Army

Unit History from 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945

From the first to the eighth of February the battalion was engaged in usual ordnance functions, the only happening that was not routine was the promotion of second lieutenant Robert H. Schlesinger to first lieutenant on Special Order #32, Headquarters Seventh Army.

On the ninth, "A" Company of the battalion started assembly of the new multiple rocket launcher to be mounted on a tank. The 48th Tank Battalion furnished the tank on which work was to be finished "four or five days.

Lt. Paul H. Wiertz, O-1558625 wounded in action on 12 January was transferred to the 3rd General Hospital, APO 423.

The fifteenth of February on the range near the battalion area, the multi-rocket launcher mounted on a tank was demonstration fired before spectators from the Division including Brigadier General Smith. Later in the day General Smith observed a demonstration of a prime mover pulling a tank out of the mud. Company "A" Recovery team and an M-25 tank recovery unit from the same company were used.

Due to third echelon maintenance in the division having fallen off, a training schedule for all companies was inaugurated this date. As originally planned the schedule includes close order drill, road marches and classes in military subjects.

Ordnance support for the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion was changed to "C" Company effective on 19 February 1945.

The next day, 20 February, an inspection of the battalion area and battalion functions was made by seven teams composed of two or more officers.

An estimated 280mm projectile launched from an enemy gun landed in the "C" Company area at approximately 0430 on 25 February 1945, with casualties of ten enlisted men killed in action and fourteen enlisted men wounded in action.

The next day "C" Company moved to Hochfelden where shop space was found in the plant of the Meteor Brewery. One enlisted man, hospitalized because of wounds incurred on 25 February during shelling of "C" Company, died of wounds.

The 27th of February Ordnance support was changed in that Company "A" supports the 68th AIB and Company "C" supports the 62nd AIB.

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6